

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 00003 020321Z

73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 AGR-05 BIB-01 /083 W

----- 085692

P R 020200Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8551

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0003

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MPOL ECON CH SEDU

SUBJECT: PRC'S 1976 NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL

SUMMARY: THE PRC NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL THIS YEAR FOCUSES ON A DEFENSE OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. IT CALLS ON CADRES NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF CLASS STRUGGLE, EVEN UNDER THE CLOAK OF "STABILITY AND UNITY", AND CITES THE CURRENT EDUCATION DEBATE AS AN EXAMPLE. IT CLAIMS ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE GOALS OF THE FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN AND CALLS FOR EFFORTS TO FULFILL THE NEW PLAN'S GOALS, BUT OTHERWISE GIVES LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMY. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE TREATED ONLY BRIEFLY, WITH THE SOVIETS TAKING THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK. MOSCOW IS DESCRIBED AS "THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WAR TODAY" AND THE EDITORIAL DRAWS ON ONE OF MAO'S RECENTLY RELEASED POEMS TO DENOUNCE "GOULASH COMMUNISM". END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 00003 020321Z

1. CHINA'S 1976 NEW YEAR'S JOINT EDITORIAL IS CHARACTERIZED BY A RINGING NEW THINGS REAFFIRMATION OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THE SOCIALIST NEW THINGS WHICH GREW OUT OF IT. THE TONE OF THE EDITORIAL IS SET BY TWO MAO POEMS--"CHINGKANGSHAN REVISITED" AND "TWO BIRDS: A DIALOGUE"--WHICH ARE PRINTED SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE EDITORIAL. BOTH POEMS DATE FROM 1965, JUST BEFORE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THE FIRST CALLS FOR BOLDNESS IN SEALING THE HEIGHTS AMID STIRRING IMAGES OF STRUGGLE; THE SECOND CONTRASTS CONFIDENCE AND TIMIDITY IN THE FACE OF A DISORDERED WORLD. THE INTENDED EFFECT IS AN EXHORTATION ONCE AGAIN TO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF CLASS STRUGGLE.

2. EMPHASIS ON THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION PERVADES THE EDITORIAL BUT IS PLACED IN A THEORETICAL CONTEXT. AS IN LAST YEAR'S EDITORIAL, GREAT STRESS IS PLACED ON STUDY. CLASS STRUGGLE IS A PROTRACTED ONE, AND CADRES MUST CONSCIENTIOUSLY STUDY TO GAIN A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF IT. THE EDITORIAL REPEATS THE USUAL LITANY OF SUBJECTS FOR STUDY AND CRITICISM: DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT, SHUI HU CHUAN, THE LIU SHAO-CHI/ LIN PIAO REVISIONIST LINE, CAPITALIST TENDENCIES AND BOURGEOIS RIGHTS. MAO ZHONGSUN HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED TO DEATH, SINCE HE RECEIVES NO MENTION.

3. EDUCATION IS GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION AS THE CURRENT EXAMPLE OF ACUTE CLASS STRUGGLE. THE EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZES THE RECENT "FARRAGO" (SIC) IN EDUCATION AS A DEVIATIONIST WIND ATTEMPTING TO REVERSE PREVIOUS VERDICTS AND AS A MANIFESTATION OF THE REVISIONIST LINE. WOULD-BE- EDUCATIONAL REFORMERS ARE IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED FOR THE FALLACY OF PLACING ECONOMICS OVER POLITICS, I.E. FOR DOWNGRADING CLASS STRUGGLE IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP CHINA'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL BASE.

4. RATHER STARTLINGLY A NEW MAO QUOTE IS CITED THAT "STABILITY AND UNITY DO NOT MEAN WRITING OFF CLASS STRUGGLE". THIS REPRESENTS A CLEAR ATTACK ON THOSE IN THE LEADERSHIP WHOM MAO SEES AS USING THE PREVAILING "STABILITY AND UNITY" THEME TO OVERRIDE IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CREATED POLICIES WHICH MAO VIEWS AS INSUFFICIENTLY REVOLUTIONARY. ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT CONTEXT IS THE EDUCATIONAL STRUGGLE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 00003 020321Z

THIS QUALIFYING OF STABILITY AND UNITY HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION IN ANY NUMBER OF FIELDS.

5. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON, HOWEVER, TO WARN THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST REVISIONISM MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL. THE "GREAT DEBATE" OVER EDUCATION MUST BE CONDUCTED UNDER PARTY LEADERSHIP: "NO FIGHTING GROUPS SHOULD BE ORGANIZED". THE EDITORIAL REPEATS THE FORMULA "CURE THE SICKNESS TO SAVE

THE PATIENT" TO INDICATE THAT STRUGGLE IS TO BE DIRECTED AT WRONG IDEAS, NOT AT INDIVIDUALS.

6. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S EDITORIAL, THE ECONOMY IS GIVEN RELATIVELY SHORT SHRIFT. THE EDITORIAL ANNOUNCES THAT GROSS INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT TARGETS FOR THE FOURTH YEAR PLAN JUST ENDED HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BEEN MET AND MAKES THE EXPECTED CALL FOR NEW EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN, AS WELL AS TO LEARN FROM TACHAI IN AGRICULTURAL, LEARN FROM TACHING IN INDUSTRY, AND PROMOTE SELF-RELIANCE. THERE IS NO REFERENCE, HOWEVER, TO THE GOAL SET AT LAST JANUARY'S FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF BUILDING A POWERFUL MODERN SOCIALIST CHINA BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.

7. AS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS' EDITORIALS, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE TREATED ONLY BRIEFLY. THE EDITORIAL REHASHES MOST OF THE CLICHES OF CHINA'S WORLD VIEW, BUT TAKES A SLIGHTLY LESS ALARMIST POSTURE ON THE DANGER OF WAR, ARGUING THAT THE "FACTORS FOR BOTH WAR AND REVOLUTION ARE DAILY VISIBLY INCREASING." TAKING A THEME FROM ONE OF THE TWO MAO POEMS, THE EDITORIAL DECLARES PHONY "GOULASH COMMUNISM" IS BANKRUPT, A CHARGE WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE REPEATED IN FUTURE BLASTS AT MOSCOW. THE US IS MENTIONED BY NAME ONLY ONCE IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO HEGEMONIC POWERS, AND THE SOVIETS ARE NAMED AS "PRECISELY THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WAR TODAY." THERE IS THE STANDARD PLEDGE TO LIBERATE TAIWAN, BUT AGAIN THIS YEAR THERE IS NO PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES.

8. THE EDITORIAL ALMOST COMPLETELY IGNORES THE ROLE OF THE PLA IN SOCIETY AND OMITTS REFERENCE TO DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. THE MILITARY AND MILITIA ARE MENTIONED ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HONG K 00003 020321Z

IN THE CONTEXT OF DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS, WITH NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR TRADITIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ROLES.

9. IN SPITE OF THE CHAIRMAN'S STIRRING POETRY, THIS YEAR'S EDITORIAL AT TIME SEEMS A BIT DEFENSIVE ABOUT CHINA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. IT ATTEMPTS TO REFUTE THE "FALLACY" THAT "THE PRESENT IS NOT AS GOOD AS THE PAST", BUT ADMITS SHORTCOMINGS IN THE FRUITS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND CALLS FOR MEASURES TO PERFECT THEM. THE IMPRESSION IS THAT OF LEADERSHIP WHICH SEES CHINA'S REVOLUTIONARY ENTHUSIASMS SLIPPING, BUT WITH STILL HOPE THAT IT CAN BE REGAINED WITHOUT RESORT TO ANOTHER DESTRUCTIVE MASS CAMPAIGN. IN CONTRAST WITH 1975, PEKING SEEMS TO BE TURNING TO DIFFERENT SORTS OF PROBLEMS AND TO HAVE ACCEPTED AS ALREADY REASONABLY ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MAJOR

DRIVES TO ASSERT PARTY SUPREMACY AND TO BUILD A UNITY AND
STABILITY CONSENSUS FROM THE CENTER TO THE BASIC LEVELS.
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK00003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750452-0604
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760190/aaaadchd.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC'S 1976 NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL SUMMARY: THE PRC NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL THIS YEAR FOCUSES ON
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MPOL, ECON, SEDU, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006